

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation	)	
	)	
or Suspension of the Educator	)	<b>ORDER OF SUSPENSION</b>
	)	<b>(BREACH OF CONTRACT)</b>
Certificate of Mauricio D. Richardson	)	
	)	
Certificate 200789	)	

### SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 8, 2006. On December 30, 2005, the Office of Educator Certification sent Mauricio D. Richardson a notice of his right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Richardson received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Richardson did not request a hearing during the period specified by the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Mr. Richardson's certificate for one year.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Richardson holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate with over four years of teaching experience. Mr. Richardson held a contract for the 2004-2005 school year with the Fairfield County School District (District), and was assigned as the band director at Fairfield Central High School. On December 1, 2004, Mr. Richardson notified the District that his last day of employment would be January 3, 2005. On December 3, 2004, the District notified Mr. Richardson that he would not be released from his contract until a suitable replacement was found. When Mr. Richardson did not return to work, and after a series of letters to Mr. Richardson, the District Board of Trustees voted on January 18, 2006, to

request suspension of Mr. Richardson's certificate as a result of his breach of contract.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its conclusion that Mr. Richardson breached his contract with the Fairfield County School District, warranting the suspension of Mr. Richardson's certificate 200789 for a period of one year, from February 8, 2006, through February 7, 2007. Should Mr. Richardson wish to have his certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, he may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:     /S/ Joe Isaac    

Joe Isaac, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
February 8, 2006